

Milton Then and Now

More cars, more accidents

By Mel Robinson

Although there were very few cars owned in town before 1913, accidents involving cars were occurring. It was not just a matter of terrified horses running away. Accidents occurred because of road conditions, too.

In 1909 P.L. Robertson drove to Georgetown with R. Bowlby and Tray Lott. A load of gravel had been dumped in the middle of the road at Ashgrove. They tried to drive over it, and damaged the engine. Mr. Bowlby returned to Milton by train. P.L. and Tray Lott decided to drive the damaged car back to town. It finally heated up and had to be towed. There was \$100 damage to the engine.

Steve Syer of the Canadian Carpet Co. on Commercial St. drove to town from Toronto in June 1909. All went well

until he drove along Mill St. in town where he hit a mud hole. It required a team of horses to pull his car out of the soggy clay. The Champion had been complaining of that hole for some time.

In 1814 Clara and Mabel Mills were in the car of a friend when it hit a rut in the road between Galt and Dundas. Clara was thrown from the car and suffered a dislocated shoulder.

In 1911 Robert C. Mead of Toronto sued Halton County when his car "ran off the track" close to the cemetery hill bridge near Oakville. There were a number of court cases in those years over the condition of Halton's roads and bridges. Finally decisions handed down in the courts brought a clearer understanding of the liability of the counties for road maintenance.

Those years were not without reckless driving charges in the courts.

In July 1913 a Hamilton man drove his car into a crowd at Burlington and was disorderly. He was fined a total of \$70 and costs.

In 1914 Joseph Brown, a Toronto expert, came to town to repair a car. He decided to take it out for a spin, and was charged in court by police chief Chapman. It was said that he was doing 40 m.p.h. on Main St.

Cars took fire in those early years too. In 1910 the car of Carey Bros. was destroyed by fire on Guelph Road. They were entertainers and the pioneers of moving picture entertainment in this area.

In 1913 there were accidents resulting from cars failing to make it to the top of some of the steep hills in Halton. In July R.B. Harris of the Hamilton Herald (newspaper) was out for a Sunday drive in his seven-passenger car. He was accompanied by his wife and four other passengers. He was half way up the Tansley hill (where No. 5 Highway now crosses the valley of the Twelve Mile Creek) when his car stalled. The emergency brake did not work and the foot clutch failed. The car backed down over a 50 foot embankment and Mrs. Harris was killed.

Twenty-five feet from the same spot, a week later, Miss J. Stewart of Hamilton had a very narrow escape. She lost control of her car which backed down the hill. Fortunately it was stopped when it backed into a tree

beside the road.

In September there was another accident in that steep valley. A carload of people were returning Toronto to Buffalo. Apparently when the car was going down hill the driver lost control.

It crashed into the end of bridge and ran several feet up an iron girder. The auto was not badly damaged. One passenger was thrown clear of the car into the creek. His injuries were dressed and the group continued on their way to Buffalo.

Steep hills were dangerous for motorists in early cars. Going up them the gasoline flow to the engine could be cut off by gravity. Some drivers backed their cars up the very steep hills to keep the gas flowing into their engines.

Then there were accidents in which pedestrians were hit by cars. In 1914 A.L. Patterson of this area was driving through West Hill on the Kingston Rd. east of Toronto. A four-year old girl ran in front of his car and was killed. He was found not guilty of any negligence.

That same summer Chas. Newell was driving his car near Killbride. As he slowed down to pick up Rev. J.M. McDonald, he glanced down and noticed that a coat was missing from the seat beside him. With his eyes off the road he ran the minister down. Also in that year Steve Syer ran a man down. The man was awarded \$150 for injuries, and his mother was awarded \$350 for nursing services.



SIGNING IN
All the federal election candidates have a host of signs dotting the countryside. Election day is Monday, Feb. 18.

WHICH BOOK?
Bell Canada is surveying Acton telephone subscribers, to see if they want their listings to remain in the Guelph and Waterloo phone directory, or move to the Halton-Peel book. Halton Hills, which includes Acton and Georgetown, is currently split in two books with Acton in the Guelph area listings and Georgetown in with Milton in the Halton-Peel directory. Many Actonians are asking to switch.

BLOOD CLINIC
Milton's next blood donor clinic is Thursday, Feb. 21 at Holy Rosary Hall. Roll up your sleeve, and give.

CALL FOR DOLLARS
Heart Fund canvassers began calling on local homes this week, hoping to raise \$8,000 to help heart research and education work. The main campaign will be in Valentine Week, Feb. 10-17.

TELEVISION and theatrical rights to "The Courage of the Early Morning", a story and biography of Air Marshal Billy Bishop, VC, have been acquired by Glen-Warren Productions Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Baton Broadcasting. Douglas Bassett, left, president of Baton Broadcasting is pictured with Arthur Bishop, son of the famous Canadian flier and author of the novel, who will act as special consultant to the project when production begins this summer.

Between the Willows

Was I surprised!

By Don Byers

I hadn't been to Toronto for almost a year, until a couple of weeks ago. For this to be of any significance, bear in mind that I commuted, by one means or another, to the city, every working day for more than 15 years.

Upon receiving a phone call the night before, inviting me to a business meeting set for a Thursday afternoon, I got on the horn to daughter Donna-Jane, to take her up on a standing offer for a free lunch.

My first surprise came when I entered the new Go-Transit station, Fairview St., Burlington. I had only about two minutes to admire the comparative luxury of the place, before the bus arrived; but time enough to appreciate the vast improvement over the bone-chilling sheds of the previous location.

The ride to T.O. was routine. But when the train pulled into the Union Station, I was startled by my second surprise. The Go-Transit section of the venerable old building, during my absence, had been completely remodelled, to my amazement, for the convenience of the travellers. The thundering hooves of the rushing mobs silenced by acres of broadloom; the long bar, behind a wall of smoked glass; the accessibility of the subway platform. "Hell!" I thought, "they've finally got it right."

D.J., wearing a warm smile, greeted me in the reception area of the law firm for whom she works.

"Hi, Dad, come on in and meet the guys."

Within the next few minutes, I was introduced to both her bosses, had the Grand Tour of their most impressive suite of offices and, with the two lawyers leading the way, we headed downstairs for lunch.

Donna had made reservations, and we were immediately seated in the crowded restaurant.

I have seldom enjoyed lunch more. The conversation ranged over a wide variety of topics, abundantly laced with humor, garnished with laughter. The food was good, too. And I stuffed myself.

On schedule, my client picked me up in front of the building and whisked me to his offices in North Toronto. The meeting went well and, on its completion, I was driven back to the Union.

When I entered, I faced my third surprise. The man from whom I had bought the evening paper for all these years, was at his post.

"Where ya been? I've missed you," he said, as he deftly folded a Star, and slipped it under my arm.

Astonished he would recognize me at all, I replied: "You've just made my day."

Through the doors, I hung a sharp right and strolled into the Pioneer Room, hoping to find my favorite waiter, and long-time friend, Peter.

Surprise number four awaited me. "Is Peter not on today?" I enquired of the waitress.

"Hasn't been in months. He and his brother have opened their own place on Yonge St. Isn't that great?"

"Sure is."

"You know," she continued, "he'd worked here for 22 years?"

"I was one of his customers most of that time," I replied. "Glad to hear he's got things going for him."

As I threaded my way through the maze of ramps to the platform, I made a mental note to look Peter up, next time I was in town.

Recalling the well-practiced skills of a seasoned commuter, I managed to get a seat on the train, little knowing that surprise number five was just down the track.

"This train is an express to Oakville, with stops at Oakville West, Burlington, and Hamilton," said the voice on the intercom. "Burlington passengers on the first six cars, west end of the train."

(Who counts cars when you're scrambling for a seat? Forget it. I'll jump off at Oakville, and move up the train.)

This I did. And in the process, was confronted by surprise five. . . an old, travelling buddy of many years.

We sat together, exchanging experiences since last we had met.

"I hope you realize, Don," he said, at one point, "this train stops at the Brant St. Station when we get to Burlington."

"Damn! I'm parked over at Fairview."

"Not to worry. I'll drive you over." "Kind of you. Thanks."

He did. And, as I headed home, I realized I had more than my share of surprises for one day. . . all of them pleasant.

High school sports

Volleyball in action

By Kelly Middleton

The girls' volleyball teams played spectacular games against Perdue High on Tuesday, Feb. 5.

The junior girls' volleyball team at MDHS reigned victorious in two out of three games to win the match and first place in our division.

The MDHS senior girls were superb in their match, losing by a very thin margin.

Coaches Mr. Knight and Mrs. Hosie would like to extend their congratulations to both very successful teams.

Girls' volleyball pictures for the year book will be taken within the next week, so listen for more bulletins from your morning announcer "Mr. O'Neil"

As The Basketball Turns

While most of the students of MDHS were enjoying Friday, Feb. 1 as one of the holidays of the Semester break, the basketball teams of MDHS played on.

On Friday the MDHS junior boys' basketball team beat Oakville-Trafalgar High by a spectacular score of 55-49.

On Wednesday, Feb. 6 the junior boys' basketball team played well but lost a close game to White Oaks High.

Top scorers for the team were Kevin Houldcroft with 23 points and Jeff DeFritos and Jamie Racinsky with 12 and nine points respectively.

Mustang Hockey Team

On Tuesday Feb. 5 the Mustang hockey team played at Thompson arena against the Oakville-Trafalgar Red Devils. Both teams played well.

Intramurals Begin Again

Attention girls of MDHS! It is once again time to begin our intramurals for semester two. But it can't be successful without your participation. It is still not too late to join up for "Scooter Board Scoopball." It's a fast fun and exciting game for girls of any age.

Those interested in participating in any intramural sport this semester may organize their team and then bring the list to the organizational meetings.

On Thursday, Feb. 7 the first game of Scooter Board Scoopball took place between the "Super Scoopers" and Andrea Thompson's team. Anyone interested in joining up for any intramural this semester, listen for further details and come down to gym 110 at 3:20 p.m. and sign up. You'll have a great time!



ACETYLENE HEADLIGHTS on this 1911 Rolls Royce "Silver Ghost" car caught the attention of Colin Graham when he visited Milton Mall this week. It's one of six antique classic cars on display in the Mall concourse, courtesy the Craven Foundation. The Foundation operates a museum of outstanding antique autos in Toronto.

BRING CAPITAL PUNISHMENT TO PARLIAMENT HILL

This election, know what you're voting for.

The issues have never been more pressing; their resolution never more crucial to the future of this country. Capital punishment is one of those issues. And no matter which side you take, it's essential that the candidate who gets your vote, truthfully represents your beliefs.

Find out where your candidate stands on capital punishment. Let's not repeat the breakdown in communications we've seen before: 70% of the popula-

tion favouring retention, and 50% of their elected representatives voting for abolition.

The Canadian Police Association is for capital punishment—whether a pre-meditated murder involves one of us or one of you. We've made our feelings known and we'll vote accordingly.

Make sure your new MP represents what you believe. Ask this simple question: ARE YOU FOR OR AGAINST THE USE OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT? You'll never know until you force the issue.

YOU ARE YOUR MP



Halton Regional Police Association
Endorsed by Union of Solicitor General Employees